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WIGAN

**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



# **Annual Report**

OF THE


**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

AND

**NUISANCE INSPECTOR**

FOR THE YEAR

**1919.**



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STANDISH,

MAY, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Wigan Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting to you my Fifth Annual Report, I beg to thank you for the ready support given to me in all matters relative to the health of the area under your administration during the past year.

I also beg to thank your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Paul Fairclough, for his ready and willing assistance in all matters brought to his notice.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. H. ORMSBY,

L,M,S.S.A., Lond.

Fellow of the Royal Institute of  
Public Health;

Member of the Society of Medical  
Officers of Health.



## Statistical Summary for whole District.

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Population—Census 1911	...	...	...	6,327
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1918	...	...	...	5,659
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1918	...	...	...	6,341
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1919	...	...	...	5,875
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1919	...	...	...	6,120
Acreage of District	...	...	...	11,701 acres
Density of Population per acre	...	...	...	0.5
Births—Males	...	...	...	62
Females	...	...	...	46
				— 108
Deaths—Males	...	...	...	56
Females	...	...	...	43
				— 99
Annual Birth-rate	...	...	...	17.6
Annual Death-rate	...	...	...	16.8
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths	...	...	...	9
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	6
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	0.68
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	0.51
Deaths of Infants under one year	...	...	...	12
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	111
Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	6
Illegitimate Deaths under one year	...	...	...	0

### Population and Acreages in the separate Townships.

	Estimated Total Population, 1919.	Estimated Civil Population, 1919.	Acreage
Shevington ...	1860	1765	1728
Wrightington...	1858	1764	3916
Haigh ...	1045	1041	2135
Parbold ...	707	674	1159
Dalton ...	415	404	2104
Worthington ...	235	227	659
	<hr/> 6120	<hr/> 5875	<hr/> 11701

### COMPARATIVE TABLES.

	Births.	Rates.	Deaths.	Rates.
Shevington ...	40	21.50	30	16.99
Wrightington...	32	17.22	35	19.84
Haigh ...	15	14.35	16	15.36
Parbold ...	5	7.07	12	17.80
Dalton ...	8	01.68	4	9.90
Worthington ...	7	29.78	2	8.81
	<hr/> 108		<hr/> 99	

### ZYMOTIC DISEASES NOTIFIED AND DEATHS (including Tuberculosis).

	Cases.	Deaths.
Shevington ...	52	3
Wrightington...	18	2
Haigh ..	11	0
Parbold ...	4	1
Dalton ...	2	0
Worthington ...	4	0
	<hr/> 91	<hr/> 6

### INFANTILE DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	1919.	1918.	Rate per 1,000 Births 1919.
Shevington ...	6	4	150
Wrightington...	3	2	93.75
Haigh ...	1	0	66
Parbold ...	1	0	200
Dalton .	0	1	0
Worthington ...	1	0	142
	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 7	



## **WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT.**

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**POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT.**—This has again been re-estimated by the Registrar General, from whom I have received the new figures of the estimated Civil Population and the estimated Total Population for 1919, which you will find have again been placed in the Statistical Summary. From the Civil Population the various death-rates have been calculated, and the birth-rates from the Total Population of the whole district and separate townships.

**BIRTHS.**—These show an increase of 4 over the previous year. The excess of births over deaths is 9, as against 25 for 1918. Six illegitimates were registered, an increase of 4 over last year. Wrightington accounted for 2, Haigh 3, and Parbold 1. Male infants show an increase of 16 over females.

**DEATHS.**—The total number of deaths show the large increase of 20 over the previous year, the rate being 16.8, as against 13.9 for 1918. Wrightington gave the largest increase, viz., 9, Haigh 6, Parbold 3, Dalton 2, and Shevington 1. Worthington showed a decrease of 1.

**INFANTILE DEATHS.**—Twelve deaths in infants under one year were registered showing an increase of 5 over last year; the rate being 111 per 1,000 births, compared with 67 for 1918. This increase in our Infantile Mortality should be a matter for grave consideration. Strong measures should be adopted as a preventative to this alarming increase in infantile deaths. The causes of death were Premature Birth and Congenital Malformation 2, Pneumonia 3, Bronchitis 2, Diarrhoea 3, Dentition 1, and Diffusing Cellulitis of Chest 1.

A **HEALTH VISITOR** for the district has not yet been appointed, and I would again strongly advise the Council to recommend the County Council to take this matter in hand without further delay, as I am of opinion that a Health Visitor would be the means of remedying our infant mortality by instructing young mothers in the care and bringing up of their children.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.—During the months of February and March we again experienced a severe epidemic of this disease. Leaflets were again freely distributed throughout the district advising the people of the importance of taking every precaution to combat this serious disease, especially at its onset. It is much to be regretted that during the year no less than 17 deaths under this heading were recorded. With the erection of more new houses and better housing accommodation, I am in hopes that better health conditions will prevail.

Ten deaths occurred outside the district of people belonging to the district, of which 8 took place in the following Institutions:—

Wigan Infirmary	...	...	6
Wigan Union Workhouse	...	...	1
Lunatic Asylum, Prestwich	...	...	1
Other Deaths	...	...	2
			—
			10

Five deaths of non-residents were registered in the district, and were transferred to their proper quarter.

The causes of death were as follows:

Enteric Fever	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	17
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	2
Cancer	...	...	2
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	1
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	6
Bronchitis	...	...	14
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	13
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	3
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	2
Premature Birth and Congenital			
Malformation	...	...	2
Violent Deaths	...	...	6
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	26
			—
			99

Eleven of the deaths were uncertified.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DEATHS.—91 cases were notified, being a decrease of 33 over the previous year, and are as follows:—Diphtheria and Croup 3, Erysipelas 3, Scarlet Fever 40, Enteric Fever 1, Puerperal Fever 1, Acute Primary Pneumonia 1, Acute Influenzal Pneumonia 8, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 12, other forms of Tuberculosis 4, Measles and German Measles 18. The largest number of cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in Shevington, which accounted for 28; whilst Wrightington was responsible for 5, Worthington 3, Haigh 3, and Dalton 1. No cases were reported from Parbold.

SCARLET FEVER.—Of the 40 cases notified, only one was removed to Hospital for treatment. No deaths occurred from this disease.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—Six deaths occurred, and were as follows: Enteric Fever 1, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 3, Other Tubercular Diseases 2.

PULMONARY AND OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.—Under this heading 16 cases were notified, of which five proved fatal.

The Localities where these cases occurred are as follows :—

	Pulmonary.	Other Forms.	Deaths.
Shevington .....	3	1	2
Wrightington .....	5	2	2
Haigh .....	1	0	0
Parbold .....	3	1	1
Dalton .....	0	0	0
Worthington .....	0	0	0
	—	—	—
	12	4	5

From the above table it will be observed that Dalton and Worthington were the only townships not affected.

I am pleased to report that our Phthisis death-rate fell from 1.23 to 0.51. I am still of the opinion that when milk, and other nourishing foods, become more plentiful, our death-rate will again be lower.

SCHOOL CLOSING.—Owing to an outbreak of Influenza during the third week in February, I found it necessary to close the whole of the schools in the district, with the exception of Dalton and Worthington. The schools closed and the period of closing are as follows:—

Haigh National, February 10th to 22nd.

Parbold Roman Catholic, February 17th to March 15th.

Mossy Lea County Council, February 17th to March 15th.

Appley Bridge Infants, February 17th to March 15th.

Broad-o'th'-Lane Mixed, February 22nd to March 15th.

Red Rock, February 22nd to March 31st.

Parbold Church of England, February 24th to March 24th

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic, March 1st to March 15th.

Crooke County Council, March 1st to March 15th.

Further school closure was adopted during September and October, when Scarlet Fever became very prevalent. Schools closed and periods of closing are as follows:—

Broad-o'th'-Lane Infants, September 19th to October 17th.

Broad-o'th'-Lane Mixed, October 1st to October 17th.

Appley Bridge Infants, October 1st to October 31st.

All the schools were thoroughly disinfected before re-opening.

SMALLPOX.—No outbreak of this disease occurred. The Isolation Cottage Hospital, which is situated in Shevington, containing four beds, is always kept ready for the reception of cases whenever an outbreak occurs.

During the year 34 Primary Vaccination and 1 Re-Vaccination were successfully performed.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT.—The subsoil of the townships comprising the Wigan Rural District is mainly clay. Agriculture is the main industry, though coal mining is the chief occupation of the men and youths of Shevington Wrightington, Haigh, and Worthington. A Linoleum and Glue Works at Appley Bridge employ many females, though a good number of the women and girls are employed in cotton mills in neighbouring districts. Parbold and Appley Bridge give employment to men in the quarries situated there.

WATER SUPPLY.—The High Moor and Dalton districts are the only parts of the district that have not a public water supply. The water is of good quality.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Being a rural district, the privy system is mainly used, and the emptying of same is well carried out by the Council's workmen.

SCAVENGING.—This is performed to my satisfaction, especially since the Council took it in hand last year.

DRAINS, SEWERS, & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—By means of water-courses and cesspools, except the Bleachworks portion of Haigh, which has an Outfall Works.

LODGING HOUSES.—There are no registered lodging houses in the district.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT.—The administration of this Act is now in the hands of the County Council.

FOOD & MILK SUPPLY.—There has been a shortage of Milk, Home Fed Bacon, and Butter. The scarcity of these foods, which are so necessary to infants and delicate children, has partly been the cause of our high infantile death-rate.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES are in good repair, and kept clean.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES ACT & TOWN PLANNING ACT.—Many of the houses in the district are in a poor state of repair, owing, no doubt, to war conditions. The farm houses and out-buildings in Wrightington being the worst offenders in this respect. This state of affairs should now be taken in hand, and the necessary repairs to property executed. The erection of houses in the several townships has the Council's earnest consideration; plans have been passed, and everything is being done to push forward the scheme.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The need of an Infectious Hospital for the district is most pressing, as isolation cannot efficiently be carried out in most of the houses occupied by the working classes.



## SHEVINGTON.

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Population, Census 1911 ... ..	1,905
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1918 ... ..	1,717
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1918 ... ..	1,919
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1919 ... ..	1,765
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1919 ... ..	1,860
Acreage of Township ... ..	1,728 acres
Density of Population per Acre ... ..	1.0
Births—Males ... ..	23
Females ... ..	17
	— 40
Deaths—Males ... ..	14
Females ... ..	16
	— 30
Annual Birth-rate ... ..	21.50
Annual Death-rate ... ..	16.99
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths ... ..	10
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases ... ..	3
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis) ... ..	0.56
Phthisis Death-rate ... ..	1.13
Deaths in Infants under one year ... ..	6
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births ... ..	150
Illegitimate Births ... ..	0
Illegitimate Deaths under one year ... ..	0

BIRTHS.—One less birth was registered than in the previous year. There were again no illegitimate births.

DEATHS.—These show an increase of 1 over 1918. Infantile deaths gave rise to 2 over last year, giving a rate of 150 per 1,000 births.

The causes of death were:—

Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2
Cancer	...	...	...	2
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths	...	...	...	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	7
				—
				30

Five deaths were uncertified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES & DEATHS.—52 cases were notified, being an increase of 28 over the preceding year, and were as follows:—Diphtheria and Croup 2, Erysipelas 2, Scarlet Fever 28, Enteric Fever 1, Acute Primary Pneumonia 1, Acute Influenzal Pneumonia 2, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 3, Other Forms of Tuberculosis 1, Measles and German Measles 12. Three deaths occurred from Zymotic Diseases, Enteric Fever accounting for 1, and Pulmonary Tuberculosis 2. One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to the Whelley Sanatorium for treatment, and fully recovered.

SCHOOL CLOSING.—Owing to an epidemic of Influenza, Broad-o'th'-Lane School, Mixed Department, was closed from February 22nd to March 15th, and Crooke School from March 1st to 15th. In consequence of an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, Broad-o'th'-Lane Infants Department was closed from September 19th to October 31st, and Mixed Department from October 1st to 31st.



## WRIGHTINGTON.

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Population, Census 1911	...	...	...	1928
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1918	...	...	...	1716
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1918	...	...	...	1916
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1919	..	...	...	1764
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1919	...	...	...	1858
Acreage of Township	...	...	...	3916 acres
Density of Population per acre	...	...	...	0·48
Births—Males	...	...	...	18
Females	...	...	...	14
			—	32
Deaths—Males	...	...	...	23
Females	...	...	...	12
			—	35
Annual Birth-rate	...	...	...	17·22
Annual Death-rate	...	...	...	19·84
Natural Decrease of Deaths over Births	...	...	...	3
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	2
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	0
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	..	0·56
Deaths in Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	3
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	93·75
Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	2
Illegitimate Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	0

BIRTHS show an increase of 4 compared with 1918. Illegitimates numbered 2, equalling those for the previous year.

DEATHS.—Nine more deaths were registered than in the preceding year. The females equalled those for the past year. Infantile deaths show an increase of one.

The causes of death were:—

Influenza	...	...	...	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	1
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	1
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	6
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1
Bright's Disease	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths	...	...	...	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	5
				—
				35

Three of the deaths were uncertified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES & DEATHS.—18 cases were notified, compared with 51 for the past year, and were as follows:—Erysipelas 1, Scarlet Fever 5, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 5, Other Forms of Tuberculosis 2, Measles and German Measles 5. Two deaths occurred from Zymotic Disease, Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Tuberculous Meningitis accounting for 1 each.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—In consequence of an epidemic of Influenza, all the three schools were closed during the periods stated below:—

Appley Bridge Infants, February 17th to March 15th.

Mossy Lea County Council, February 17th to March 15th.

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic, February 17th to March 15th.

Owing to the prevalence of Scarlet Fever, the Appley Bridge Infants School was again closed from October 1st to 31st.

## HAIGH.

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Population—Census 1911	...	...	...	1,088
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1918	...	..	..	950
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1918	...	...	...	1,073
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1919	...	...	...	1,041
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1919	...	...	...	1,045
Acreage of Township	...	...	...	2,135 acres
Density of Population per acre	...	...	..	0.4
Births—Males	...	...	...	9
Females	...	...	...	6
			—	15
Deaths—Males	...	...	...	7
Females	...	...	...	9
			—	16
Annual Birth-rate	...	...	...	14.35
Annual Death-rate	...	...	...	15.36
Natural Decrease of Deaths over Births	...	...	...	1
Zymotic Deaths	...	...	...	0
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	0
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	0
Deaths in Infants under one year	...	...	..	1
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	66
Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	3
Illegitimate Deaths under one year	...	...	...	0

BIRTHS.—These show a decrease of 3 over 1918, giving a rate of 14.35, compared with 16.77 for the previous year. There were 3 illegitimate births, as against none for last year.

DEATHS.—Six more deaths were registered than in the previous year—5 males and 1 female—increasing the rate from 10.52 to 15.36.

The causes of death were:—

Influenza	...	...	...	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	..	...	6
				<hr/>
				16

All the deaths were certified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES & DEATHS.—11 cases were notified, being an increase of 2 over the past year, and were as follows:—Diphtheria 1, Scarlet Fever 3, Acute Influenzal Pneumonia 5, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1, Measles 1. There were no deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—Haigh National School was closed from February 10th to 22nd, and Red Rock School from February 22nd to March 9th, owing to the prevalence of Influenza during the above periods.

## PARBOLD.

Population—Census 1911	...	...	...	711
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1918	...	...	...	667
Estimated Total Population. July 1st, 1918	...	...	...	737
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1919	...	...	...	674
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1919	...	..	...	707
Acreage of Township	...	...	...	1,159 acres
Density of Population per acre	...	...	...	0.6
Births—Males	...	...	...	4
Females	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
				5
Deaths—Males	...	...	...	8
Females	...	...	...	4
				<hr/>
				12

Annual Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	7.07
Annual Death-rate	...	...	...	...	17.80
Increase of Deaths over Births	...	...	...	...	7
Zymotic Deaths	...	...	...	...	1
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	0
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths in Infants under one year	...	...	...	...	1
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	200
Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	1
Illegitimate Deaths under one year	...	...	...	...	0

BIRTHS show a decrease of 2 on the previous year, the rate being 7.07, compared with 9.49 for the previous year. There was only one illegitimate birth.

DEATHS gave an increase of 3 over the preceding year, giving a rate of 17.80, as against 13.49 for 1918.

The causes of death were:—

Tuberculous Disease	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	2
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	2
Violent Deaths	...	...	...	2
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	4
				—
				12

There were 2 uncertified deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES & DEATHS.—Only 4 cases were notified, as compared with 35 for last year. The cases notified were as follows:—Pulmonary Tuberculosis 3, Other Forms of Tuberculosis 1. One death from Tuberculous Disease was recorded.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—Parbold Roman Catholic School was closed from February 17th to March 15th, and Parbold Church of England School from February 24th to March 24th, owing to the presence of Influenza.



## DALTON.

---

Population—Census 1911	...	...	...	446
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1918	...	...	...	389
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1918	...	...	...	452
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1919	...	...	...	404
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1919	...	...	...	415
Acreage of Township	...	...	...	2,104 acres
Density of Population per acre	...	...	...	0.2
Births—Males	...	...	...	6
Females	...	...	...	3
			—	9
Deaths—Males	...	...	...	2
Females	...	...	...	2
			—	4
Annual Birth-rate	...	...	...	21.68
Annual Death-rate	...	...	...	9.90
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths	...	...	...	5
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	0
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	0
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	0
Deaths in Infants under one year	...	...	...	0
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	0
Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	0
Illegitimate Deaths under one year...	...	...	...	0

BIRTHS show an increase of one over 1918. The males exceeded the females by 3, the rate being 21.68, compared with 17.69 for the previous year. No illegitimate births were recorded.

DEATHS.—An increase of 2 over last year, the sexes being again equally divided, giving a rate of 9.90, compared with 5.14 for last year.



The causes of death were:—

Influenza . . . . .	1
Other Defined Diseases . . . . .	3
	—
	4

There were no uncertified deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES & DEATHS.—Two cases were notified, as against one in the previous year; the cases notified were Scarlet Fever and Puerperal Fever. No deaths occurred from Zymotic Disease.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—No school closure was adopted during the year.

## WORTHINGTON.

Population—Census 1911 . . . . .	249
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1918 . . . . .	220
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1918 . . . . .	244
Estimated Civil Population, July 1st, 1919 . . . . .	227
Estimated Total Population, July 1st, 1919 . . . . .	235
Acreage of Township . . . . .	659 acres
Density of Population per acre . . . . .	0.35
Births—Males . . . . .	2
Females . . . . .	5
	— 7
Deaths—Males . . . . .	2
Females . . . . .	0
	— 2

Annual Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	29.78
Annual Death-rate	...	...	...	...	8.81
Natural Increase of Births over Deaths	...	...	...	...	5
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases	...	...	...	...	0
Zymotic Death-rate (excluding Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	0
Phthisis Death-rate	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths in Infants under one year	...	...	...	...	1
Infantile Death-rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	...	142
Illegitimate Births	...	...	...	...	0
Illegitimate Deaths	...	...	...	...	0

Births show a satisfactory increase of 5 over last year, the females exceeding the males by 3, giving a rate of 29.78, compared with 8.19 for last year. There were again no illegitimate births.

DEATHS were one less than in the previous year, the rate being 8.81, against 13.63 for 1918. There was one death in infants under one year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES & DEATHS.—Four cases were notified, equalling the number for 1918, and were as follows:—Scarlet Fever 3, Acute Influenzal Pneumonia 1. There were no deaths under this heading.

The causes of death were:—

Organic Heart Disease	...	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1
			—
			2

One death was uncertified.

## WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

18, Victoria Buildings, King Street,

Wigan, March, 1920.

Dr. G. H. Ormsby, L.M.S.S.A., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health, Standish.

DEAR SIR,

I have the honour to submit to you a report upon the work done from August 7th, 1919 (the date of commencing duties), to the end of the year.

During this period 62 cases of notifiable diseases have been referred to me, viz.: Scarlet Fever 35, Measles 21, Tuberculosis 5, Membranous Croup 1.

Owing to insufficient home accommodation, 2 of these cases were removed for treatment by the Borough Authorities at Whelley Isolation Hospital, at a cost of £38 14s. 4d.

Two Tuberculosis Shelters were erected at Appley Bridge and Parbold respectively.

33 houses have been fumigated or sprayed, and the 2 schools at Shevington have been similarly treated.

35 informal and 4 statutory notices have been served in respect of nuisances and defects existing in various parts of the district. 19 of these have already been abated, but owing to scarcity of labour and materials, much of this work still remains in abeyance. The chief defects found were:—

Defective privies and ashpits	...	18
„ yard paving	... ..	14
„ roofs	... ..	10
„ drains	... ..	17
„ eaves gutters and down pipes		20
„ pails	... ..	11
„ and damp brickwork	...	21
Obstructed drains	... ..	3
Overflowing cesspools	... ..	6
Foul ditches and watercourses	...	3
Accumulation of manure	... ..	2
Insufficient water supply	... ..	10

CANAL BOATS ACT.—Ten canal boats were inspected, but no breach of regulations found.

HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING ACTS.—Under these Acts 14 houses have been inspected, and two reported as unfit for occupation. Owing to one of these being in a dangerous condition and beyond repair, the tenant was given notice to quit, and has now vacated same.

The Council endeavoured to acquire two dilapidated stone houses on Shevington Moor, for the purpose of converting into workmen's dwellings, but owing to the owner promising to carry out the work negotiations fell through.

The County Council requested the Council to incorporate houses for policemen in their housing scheme, and it was decided to agree to the suggestion.

Three housing sites have been selected, viz.:—Appley Bridge, 5.344 acres; Shevington Moor, 1.500 acres; Broad-o'th'-Lane, 4.221 acres. Lay-out and house plans have also been placed before the Council for their consideration.

DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.—Thirty-six inspections have been made, and the premises were found to be in fair condition as regards cleanliness, but at two the drainage and lighting were defective. Informal notices have been served on the owners.

BAKEHOUSES & SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—These have been periodically inspected, and it was found that the regulations were being complied with.

SCAVENGING.—A new tumbler cart has been provided for emptying pails and cesspools, and orders given for the tank carts and pumps to be repaired.

The scavenging for the whole of Parbold, Shevington, Wrightington, and the lower portion of Dalton, has been carried out by direct labour, with the result that the work is now regularly and systematically done. The contracts for the districts of Haigh and Worthington have been again renewed.

Yours faithfully,

PAUL FAIRCLOUGH,

Inspector of Nuisances.



# Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1919.

## Rural District of Wigan.

Medical Officer of Health—GEORGE HENRY ORMSBY Salary and Bonus as M.O.H., '31-12-1919, £88.

Inspector of Nuisances—HERBERT ELLIOTT late Inspector. Jan. to July,  
PAUL FAIRCLOUGH, present Inspector, Aug. to Dec. Salary and Bonus as Inspector, 31-12-1919, £216.

Is the Medical Officer of Health or Inspector of Nuisances away on Military Service? No.

What is the character of the  
Hospital Accommodation ?

Is it Joint or otherwise? Otherwise

No. of Beds available for your district? For Smallpox .. 4 For other Infectious Diseases? None

How is Disinfection carried out ?

No. of Houses disinfected 33, Aug. to Dec. only.	Method—Formaldehyde Gas.
Are Houses disinfected d after (a) Phthisis? Yes.	(b) Measles? Yes.
Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, &c. (steam or otherwise)?	None used.
No. of Articles disinfected? No record kept.	
Where is the Apparatus situated? None kept.	

If not, please state how disinfection of Clothing, &c., in these cases is carried out:—Sprayed with Formaldehyde and afterwards left in room and exposed to Formaldehyde Gas.

Are any diseases not specifically mentioned in the Infectious Diseases Notification Act notifiable (for instance, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Chicken Pox, &c.)? If so, what are they? None.



# SUMMARY.—Continued.

Diseases specially prevalent—Influenza, and Scarlet Fever.      Period? Influenza, February to March.    Scarlet Fever, Feb. to Dec.  
 No. of times School Closure adopted—18.    For what disease? Influenza and Scarlet Fever.  
 Number of Special Reports made under Art. 19 (15 and 16) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910—None.  
 Bacteriological Examinations.    Specimens examined: Blood 3, Swabs 2, Sputum 2, Milk 0, Others 0.  
 Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910.    Is a supply of Anti-toxin kept within the District?    Yes at M.O.H.'s residence.  
 Amount used during 1919: 8,000 units.

Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article 1 of the Regulations of 2nd Sept. 1910?    Yes.  
 Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article 1 (3), a list of dwelling-houses, the early inspection of which is, in the opinion of the M.O.H., desirable?    Yes.  
 Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Article 2 and 3?    Yes.  
 What officer has been so designated?    M.O.H. and N. Inspector.  
 Have the necessary books, forms, &c., for keeping the required records been obtained and maintained?    Yes.  
 Action taken in 1919 under the Housing Acts:—  
 Total No. of Dwelling-houses inspected for purpose of the Housing Acts (Not including inspections re Nuisances, &c.):—14.  
 No. of dwelling-houses specially inspected under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909, *i.e.*, with a view to ascertaining whether any dwelling-houses are unfit for human habitation? 2.  
 Have the particulars of these inspections, as specified in Article 2 (1) to (8), and Article 3 (1) to (8), of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, been fully recorded?    Yes.  
 Number of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation?    2  
 "    Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders?    Nil  
 "    Closing Orders made?    Nil  
 "    Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders (under Section 15)?    Nil  
 "    Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders?    Nil  
 "    Dwelling-houses demolished (vacated and partly demolished)? 1  
 General character of defects found to exist?    Dilapidation.

"The Housing Acts, 1890 to 1919"

# SUMMARY.—Continued.

<p>Is there a deficiency of housing accommodation? If so, where, and to what extent?</p> <p>Has a Housing Committee been appointed, as suggested in Memorandum of Ministry of Health, 7th August, 1919?</p> <p>Are steps being taken under the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c., Act, 1919, to meet the deficiency?</p> <p>What stage has been reached in this connection on 31st December, 1919?</p> <p>Number of New Houses built during 1919?</p>	<p>Yes    Wrightington and Shevington.</p> <p>No, the Council constitutes the Housing Committee.</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Sites selected and Council in negotiation for purchase of land. By and at the cost of the District Council? Nil. By private enterprise? Nil.</p>
<p>Source of the Water Supply—</p> <p>What is its condition?</p> <p>Possibilities of contamination?</p> <p>Any insufficiency, and where?</p> <p>Nature of extensions (if any) during the year?</p>	<p>Various Sources.</p> <p>Good.</p> <p>None known.</p> <p>None found.</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Is Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of District?</p> <p>How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?</p> <p>If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Partly by Local Authority and partly by contract.</p> <p>By day.</p>
<p>How is the Refuse disposed of?</p> <p>Has a Destructor been provided?</p>	<p>On Agricultural Land</p> <p>No</p>

# SUMMARY.—Continued.

Sewage Disposal Works. Method of treatment?	For a portion of the Township of Haigh, Works at Red Rock Haigh. Double contact beds, with separate bed for storing water, other portions of Township drains and cesspools only.
What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during year? Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system? Action taken - Drain Testing, Flushing, &c.?	Domestic Sewage. No further development. Wrightington, Shevington, Parbold, Dalton, Worthington and part of Haigh. Systematically done.
Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams?	None
Canal Boats: Number inspected?	10 Number of Infringements of Acts? None
What is the condition of the Bakehouses? " Slaughtcr Houses? " Lodging Houses?	Good No. ? 2. Fairly Good. No. ? 3 only, 1 used during food restriction. No. Registered ? 3 No. Licensed ? None. Has a Public Abattoir been provided? No None.
What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools?	Generally Good
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops— Are they periodically inspected? Have Regulations been made under the order of the L.G.B.? Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow? Cowkeepers?	Yes What is their condition? Well kept. Yes Are they enforced? Yes (a) Where cows are habitually grazed? 600. (b) Where cows are not habitually grazed? Does not apply in this district. Total No. of Cowkeepers? 78. No. on Register? 78. No. of Inspections during year? 36



## SUMMARY.—Continued.

Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)? Any arrangements for veterinary inspection of dairy cows. Action taken (if any) as to tuberculous milk?	Total No. of Dairymen or Milk Purveyors? 1 No. on Register? 1 No. None
Inspection of Food— Amount condemned or surrendered as unfit for human Consumption (a) Tuberculosis Carcases and parts? (b) Diseased, unsound, or unwholesome meat (other than above)? (c) Other food stuffs? Number of Legal Proceedings and result?	3 Carcases of Sheep. (a) None (b) None (c) None None
Department of Inspector of Nuisances	Number of Notices served? Informal—35, Statutory—4. Number of Nuisances abated? 19 Number of Legal Proceedings taken, and result—None
Closets and Ashpits.	Privy Middens—No. of Middens, 600; No. of Closets attached to these Middens, 916; No. of Pail Closets, 81; No. of Ashpits (excluding Middens), 172; No. of Fresh Water Closets, 91; No. of Portable Receptacles for refuse, Nil; No. of Waste Water Closets, Nil; No. of Privy Closets converted during 1919 To Fresh W.C.'s, Nil; to Waste W.C.'s, Nil; to Pails, &c., Nil; No. of Pail Closets converted to Fresh W.C.'s, Nil; Waste W.C.'s, Nil; No. of Waste W.C.'s converted to Fresh W.C.'s Nil. Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion? No. What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for new property? No new property erected.
Smoke	Number of Observations, None; Number of Legal Proceedings taken and result, None; What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour—None fixed

# SUMMARY.—Continued.

Has the Authority adopted—	“The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890”? Yes. “The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907”? Yes. “The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890”? Yes.
Has a Health Visitor been appointed by the Local Council? State whether whole or part time?	No.
Qualifications of Health Visitor?	No.
Has any, and if so what, action been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare Work?	
Has any scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants?	No.
Is there a District Nursing Association in the District?	No.
If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work?	
If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work?	
Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1919	None.
Chief Sanitary requirements of district	Conversion of Privy Middens and paving of Back Yards.

Signed, GEO. H. ORMSBY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

April 8th, 1920.

